



U.S. Customs and Border Protection

Agriculture Fact Sheet

FACT SHEET

Threats to the U.S. Agriculture Industry

- According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), agriculture is the largest industry and employment sector in the United States, with more than \$1 trillion in annual economic activity. (USDA Economic Research Service, February 2014)
- The greatest risks to the success of this industry are exotic pests and foreign animal diseases. Invasive species have caused \$138 billion annually in economic and environmental losses in the United States, including yield and quality losses for America's agriculture industry. (USDA Wildlife Services: Economic and Ecological Impacts of Invasive Species, 2000).
- Each day, CBP helps to prevent the intentional and unintentional introduction of potentially harmful plant pests and foreign animal diseases from entering the United States at more than 300 ports of entry.

FY 2013 Agriculture Statistics

Passenger Inspections.....23,253,867

Cargo Inspections.....743,869
(Miscellaneous and Regulated)

Quarantine Material Interceptions (QMI)

Animal By-Product12,996
Meat Products.....375,702
Plant Material/Soil.....1,217,601

Total QMI1,606,299
(Number of Seizures)

Pest Interceptions

Submitted161,236
Reportable Pests.....73,199

Total Civil Violations60,310

Data Source: Agriculture Quarantine Activity System

Workforce and Career Enhancement

In 2003, 1,573 agriculture specialists transitioned from the (USDA) to CBP. Now, CBP deploys more than 2,300 agriculture specialists at 167 of the 300 ports of entry.



Training

CBP and the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) have continued to develop and use pest-detection training modules to strengthen inspection efforts since 2004. These include modules on the Asian gypsy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), Khapra beetle (KB) (*Trogoderma granarium*), Asian citrus psyllid (*Diaphorina citri*), citrus greening disease (Huanglongbing), and wood packaging materials.





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Agriculture Canine

In 1984, the USDA established its detector dog program, the “Beagle Brigade,” at the Los Angeles International Airport, with one beagle trained to sniff out plants and animal products in checked luggage and carry-on items arriving on international flights. Beagles and beagle mixes are the preferred breed of dog at airports because of their keen sense of smell, non-threatening size, high food drive, and gentle disposition. In 2000, USDA started using larger dogs outside the passenger environment by employing Labrador retrievers; this launched the “Border Brigade” on the Mexican and Canadian borders, and the “Cargo Brigade” at CBP cargo inspection facilities at airports and seaports.



Canine Team Expansion

In 2003, approximately 75 canine teams were included when the Homeland Security Act transferred agriculture inspectors to CBP. Today, the number of CBP agriculture canine teams has grown to more than 100 teams, providing screening at border crossings, preclearance locations, air passenger terminals, cruise terminals, cargo warehouses, and mail facilities that process international passengers and commodities. CBP agriculture canine teams initially train at the USDA's National Detector Dog Training Center (NDDTC). When the canine teams are deployed to the field, they perform and continually reinforce the training they received at NDDTC.



Operation Effectiveness: The Effort Works

The Khapra beetle is one of the world's most destructive stored-product pests. It feeds on a variety of dried materials, is resistant to insecticides, and can go long periods without food. Khapra beetles are not known to occur in the United States and its introduction into the U.S. could have serious consequences. The average Khapra beetle interceptions for CBP between 2007 and 2010 was 17 pests per year. CBP's Khapra beetle technology training launched in early 2010 led to increased interceptions of Khapra beetle by agriculture specialists. Confirmed Khapra beetle interceptions in 2011, 2012, and 2013 totaled nearly 200 each year, indicating the effectiveness of the training program.

Khapra beetles prefer grain and cereal products but is often found in luggage, personal goods, used burlap, spices, dried fruit, and plant and animal materials. It is routinely intercepted on oats, lentils, garbanzo beans, soybeans, barley, rice, wheat, corn, cowpeas, and safflower seeds.

